

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS SUMMARY

1. HIGHLIGHTS. THURSDAY PAPERS FEATURE KISSINGER DELIVERS POW LIST TO ISRAEL; ALSO FRONTPAGE EHRlichman BARS PLEA BARGAINING, REJECTING BID TO LET HIM PLEAD GUILTY TO SINGLE COUNT IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS AID; ALSO HOUSE VOTES ENERGY BILL, INCLUDING SLASH IN PRICE OF SOME DOMESTIC CRUDE OIL, SENDS BILL TO PRESIDENT DESPITE THREAT OF VETO.

1A. OTHER STORIES INCLUDE: SAXBE DOUBTS IMPEACHMENT; GROMYKO UNEXPECTEDLY IN SYRIA, WILL FOLLOW KISSINGER TO CAIRO; SOVIET STEPS UP CRITICISM OF DIEGO GARCIA BASE AS THREATENING INDEPENDENCE OF COUNTRIES IN REGION; NATO SEEKS TO IMPROVE CONSULTATION; CUBAN EMBARGO FACES CHALLENGE FROM CANADA; ETHIOPIAN MUTINY BRINGS DOWN CABINET.

1B. FEO TAKES STEPS TO RELAX REGULATION WHICH LED SOME COMPANIES TO CUT BACK ON CRUDE OIL IMPORTS AND MAY HAVE ALREADY CUT EAST COAST A QUARTER BILLION GALLONS OF GASOLINE THIS SPRING. BANGKOK UPI REPORTS FRENCH DELEGATE BOUCHENY  
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TO ECAFE CONFERENCE ON ENERGY CRISIS IN ASIA CALLED ON UN

TO CONVENE A WORLD CONFERENCE.

2. KISSINGER. NYTIMES JERUSALEM GWERTZMAN REPORTS

KISSINGER BROUGHT TO ISRAEL YESTERDAY A LIST OF 65 KNOWN ISRAELI PRISONERS HELD BY SYRIA SINCE THE WAR LAST OCTOBER. IN RESPONSE, ISRAEL AGREED TO HOLD TALKS WITH SYRIANS, AIMED AT SEPARATING THEIR FORCES ON GOLAN HEIGHTS FRONT. HIGH ISRAELI OFFICIALS SAID RELEASE OF PRISONER LIST AND PROMISE OF RED CROSS VISITS MET ISRAELI'S CONDITIONS FOR HOLDING SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH SYRIANS. MRS. MEIR VOICES ISRAELI'S GRATITUDE TO KISSINGER AND SAID ON FRIDAY ISRAEL WOULD MAKE KNOWN FIRST PROPOSALS ON DISENGAGEMENT TO SYRIANS THROUGH HIM. TODAY KISSINGER FLIES TO CAIRO FOR TALKS WITH SADAT WHICH WILL INCLUDE NOT ONLY REVIEW OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI TALKS BUT ALSO POSSIBILITY OF RESTORING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND EGYPT. KISSINGER RETURNS TO ISRAEL ON FRIDAY TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS ON TROOP SEPARATION, AND THEN FLIES TO DAMASCUS THAT EVENING TO TRANSMIT THEM TO ASSAD. US OFFICIALS SAID THEY EXPECTED BY TIME KISSINGER LEAVES SYRIA SATURDAY FOR RIYADH, AN AGREEMENT CAN BE ANNOUNCED ON WHERE AND IN WHAT FORMAT SYRIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE HELD. KISSINGER WILL SPEND SATURDAY NIGHT IN AMMAN AND FLY TO BONN FOR OVERNIGHT STAY AND CONSULTATION WITH WEST GERMAN OFFICIALS SUNDAY NIGHT. HE IS SCHEDULED TO FLY TO BRUSSELS TO BRIEF NATO ALLIES ON MONDAY BEFORE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON. US OFFICIALS SAID DISENGAGEMENT TALKS MIGHT BE CONDUCTED PARTLY IN GENEVA UNDER UN AUSPICES AND PARTLY THROUGH SOME OUTSIDE BODY, ADDING KISSINGER WOULD NOT GET INVOLVED IN SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY UNTIL ISRAELI AND SYRIAN POSITIONS WERE WITHIN RANGE OF EACH OTHER DIPLOMATICALLY.

2A. WASHPOST JERUSALEM BERGER REPORTS SYRIA HAS AGREED, ACCORDING TO US OFFICIALS, TO GIVE UP PRISONERS BEFORE TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM GOLAN HEIGHTS, REPRESENTING MAJOR CHANGE IN SYRIAN POLICY OF USING POWS AS BARGAINING CHIPS FOR RETURN OF ALL OF HEIGHTS. HIGH US OFFICIALS TRAVELING WITH KISSINGER SAID HE DOES NOT ANTICIPATE OIL UNCLASSIFIED

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EMBARGO AGAINST US WOULD BE LIFTED WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS, BASING HIS ASSESSMENT ON LACK OF SIGNS OF ANY IMMINENT MEETING OF ARAB OIL MINISTERS WHO WOULD APPROVE SUCH A TERMINATION. US OFFICIALS DISCLOSED KISSINGER ACTUALLY POSSESSED POW LIST BEFORE ARRIVING IN SYRIA, BUT STILL UNEXPLAINED WAS WHY KISSINGER KEPT LIST SECRET FROM ISRAELIS. US OFFICIALS SAID THEY BELIEVE SOVIETS HAD USED THEIR INFLUENCE IN SYRIA TO GET POW LIST RELEASED.

3. NATO. NYTIMES KEMEZIS BRUSSELS REPORTS HIGH FOREIGN  
MINISTRY OFFICIALS ARE EXPECTED TO MEET THERE MARCH 13 IN  
AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE ALLIANCE CONSULTATION SYSTEM, WITH

HARTMAN EXPECTED TO REPRESENT US. KEMEZIS ADDS ALEXIS  
JOHNSON GAVE NATO REPRESENTATIVES SALT BREIFING.

4. CUBA. WASHPOST MARDER REPORTS A NEW AND POLITICALLY  
EXPLOSIVE CHALLENGE TO THE 12-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN EMBARGO  
ON TRADE WITH CUBA HAS NOW BEEN RAISED FROM CANADA, STATE  
DEPARTMENT ACKNOWLEDGED YESTERDAY, AS CANADA IS PUSHING  
APPLICATION OF CANADIAN SUBSIDIARY OF STUDEBAKER-  
WORTHINGTON TO SELL LOCOMOTIVES TO CUBA ON CONTRACT  
ESTIMATED BETWEEN 12 AND 18 MILLIONS, AND A COLUMNIST  
IN TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL SAID DISPUTE THREATENS TO REVIVE  
LATENT CANADIAN HOSTILITY TOWARD EXTRA-TERRITORIAL APPLI-  
CATION OF US LAW. CASEY

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